

## Covid Update Narrative Dec. 21

Select person Maura Curran gave a shoutout to Scituate DPW workers for their efforts during last week's nor'easter. She said they worked 24 hours straight dealing with the snow, ice, and flooding.

Curran noted this was an opportune time for residents to take a look at the downtown harbor sustainability and resiliency update on the Cultural Management web page. Town officials and residents have worked with consultants on how to mitigate flood problems at the harbor.

Curran also said the nonprofit SANDS is providing grants to help local businesses, non-profits, schools, and more to mitigate the effects of Covid. Visit: [sandshelp.org](https://sandshelp.org) for details.

She urged residents to go downtown this week to support local retailers and restaurants and keep Scituate strong.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said since last Monday Scituate has seen 37 new Covid cases down from 42 the previous week. He noted the numbers have been significantly higher over the past few weeks. The town

has had a 3.38 percent positivity rate over the past 14 days. The state has a 4.5 percent positivity rate.

Boudreau said the uptick in cases is due to the Thanksgiving holiday and that public health officials are very concerned about a further bump over Christmas and New Year's.

For more guidance on Covid and the state travel ban, visit: [mass.gov/holidays](https://mass.gov/holidays).

Boudreau reminded citizens that the state travel ban includes those who travel out-of-state for a ski trip.

The state is in Phase 3, Step 1, that requires masks must be worn at all times at restaurants, even at the table, except when eating or drinking. Tables are capped at six and there is a 90-minute limit. For the latest Covid guidelines, visit: [mass.gov/covid](https://mass.gov/covid).

The ban on outdoor watering is still in effect because the region is in a drought. However, the reservoir is 100 percent full with some spilling over.

Boudreau implored residents not to flush wipes down the toilet because they are clogging the pumps at the sewer treatment plant. He noted they do serious damage at the plant and should be kept out of the sewer system.

He said even if the wipe says “flushable” they should not be flushed. Only toilet paper. Wipes don’t dissolve. Sewer department workers must take the pumps apart several times a day to deal with the wipes.

The Cole Parkway and Cedar Point projects are ongoing and citizens should be careful due to the construction. After the new year, the main trunk lines will be installed at Cedar Point which will cause significant traffic disruptions.

Boudreau noted that the “Great Conjunction,” where Jupiter and Saturn are closer, is happening tonight (Dec. 21). It won’t happen again for another 400 years or so.

Superintendent of Schools William Burkhead said there have been five new Covid cases over the past two weeks with a total of total 47 to date for the school year.

He praised the custodians and DPW for weathering the storm last Thursday, which was the first “snow day” of the school year. Due to their work, the schools were prepared for opening on Friday.

Check out Thursday Thoughts at: [scituate.k12.ma.us](https://scituate.k12.ma.us) for the latest school Co-Vid updates and others news of note.

Winter vacation starts this week with schools reopening,  
Jan. 4.